

Political Freedom in China Act of 1997; H.R. 2232, the Radio Free Asia Act of 1997; H.R. 2605, the Communist China Subsidy Reduction Act of 1997; H.R. 2647, a bill to ensure that commercial activities of the People's Liberation Army of China or any Communist Chinese military company in the United States are monitored; House Resolution 188, a resolution urging the executive branch to take action regarding the acquisition by Iran of C-802 cruise missiles; H.R. 2386, the United States-Taiwan Anti-Ballistic Missile Defense Cooperation Act; and H.R. 2621, the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Authorities Act 1997.

As Members know, Madam Speaker, there are a number of appropriations bills that need to be passed before the House concludes the first session of the 105th Congress. I have always been an optimist, and it is my hope that the House can agree on these important matters by the end of next week, next Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.

I thank the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR] for yielding me this time.

Mr. BONIOR. Madam Speaker, reclaiming my time, if the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] will bear with me for a second, I have a series of questions I would like to pose to the distinguished majority leader.

A number of resolutions were filed this morning with regard to the Sanchez situation, and I am just wondering when those will be brought up.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman would yield, obviously, we will have to look at that. We will try to reconcile that against the schedule. I would guess it would be Tuesday or Wednesday.

Mr. BONIOR. Second, as the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] knows from the long lines on the floor of the House of Representatives, we have up to now 187 Members, bipartisan I might add in nature, who have come and signed a discharge petition on campaign finance reform. I note there is an agreement in the Senate to take up campaign finance reform. I am just wondering if the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] could tell us when we will take campaign finance up in the House of Representatives.

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentleman for his inquiry. If the gentleman would continue to yield, we are looking at that. We have been having discussions among ourselves and with our colleagues on the other side of the building. I do not have anything to announce at this time.

Mr. BONIOR. Well, I suspect that my friend, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY], took note that we had an additional 20 Members sign this week. And I think the movement is moving well. I would just encourage my friend from Texas to seriously consider the large number of Members who are interested in this. One hundred and eighty Democrats have already signed this petition. We are looking forward to a debate on that. All sides, all different perspec-

tives on this issue, can have their say on the floor of the House.

Third, can the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] tell me what day we will take up fast track?

Mr. ARMEY. Madam Speaker, it is our intention to do fast track on Friday.

Mr. BONIOR. Reclaiming my time, fourth, I note that in the comments the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] has just made, there were a series of bills related to China on the schedule. I am wondering under what structure we are going to consider them.

Are we going to have one rule to consider them all, or are we going to have separate rules on each of the bills that my colleague said we will discuss next week as they relate to China?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will continue to yield, the Committee on Rules will be meeting earlier next week and they will be working on that in conjunction with the other members of the committee, and the minority will be, I suppose, negotiating that.

Mr. BONIOR. Well, I hope they are brought out here under separate rules and we do not have a package rule situation on these very important bills.

Finally, let me just ask my friend, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY], I noted in his comments at the end that he seemed optimistic, and referred to himself that way, that we will be able to finish by the end of the week next week. I am optimistic, as well, and my sense is that that is where we are heading. If the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] has any other thoughts on that, I would like to hear them. And if not, does he anticipate an additional continuing resolution to take us into next year?

Mr. ARMEY. It is my belief at this point to continue to talk to all the people related to these conferences on spending bills that we can complete that work by sometime next weekend. I see no reason to depart from that belief. But I must advise the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR] that I hold that belief and punctuate it with both a knock on wood and a prayer.

Mr. BONIOR. I will take both. Have a good weekend.

Mr. RIGGS. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. RIGGS. Madam Speaker, with the passage of the rule making in order both the HELP scholarships bill, which I know is of genuine interest and even some concern to Members on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of the issue, pro and con, through the majority whip to the majority leader, is it our intention to resume that debate and have the debate on the HELP scholarships bill between 4 and 6 on Tuesday, so Members know they should be back at that time for debate, and that the vote would then occur on the HELP scholarships bill at approximately 6 p.m.?

Mr. ARMEY. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. The gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is correct.

Let me again reiterate. We will begin the general debate then on the HELP scholarships bill around 4 on Tuesday.

Mr. RIGGS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR] for yielding.

ADJOURNMENT TO TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1997

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 4, 1997, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, on rollcall votes 559 through 565, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all of the votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. JOHN. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 554 on H.R. 1270, I also was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 2 of rule IX, I hereby give notice of my intention to offer a resolution which raises a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas, Loretta Sanchez was issued a certificate of election as the duly elected Member of Congress from the 46th District of California by the Secretary of State of California and was seated by the U.S. House of Representatives on January 7, 1997; and whereas, in the 104th Congress, similar challenges were brought in three elections, including one involving the offeror of this resolution, winner of her election by 812 votes, duly certified by the Secretary of State of